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TO THE BEAVER RIVER WATER USERS:

Enclosed please find your 2008 assessment for the Beaver River Distribution System. You may notice a change in the assessment amount. There are two reasons for the change. Ron Roberts has announced that 2008 will be his last year as water Beaver River water commissioner. To prepare for this change, the water users at the annual meeting increased the budget and the assessment to appoint a deputy to work with and be trained by Ron this year. The plan is that the deputy will be appointed as the water commissioner next year.

The other reason is that for the first time in several years, we have taken a look at the process and method used to calculate the assessments for the Beaver River Distribution System. We found several things that did not appear to be equitable, so we have made some revisions in how the assessments are calculated this year. This effort to revise the assessment calculation process has been possible because the water commissioner is keeping more detailed records of water use on the Beaver River.

In the past the assessments have been calculated based strictly on the relative size and priority of the water right; those with larger and earlier priority water rights received larger assessments. However, in a couple of instances, it appears that the priority of the water right was not being considered in the calculation and this lead to some inequities.

The water commissioner does not measure all of the water use in the Beaver River Distribution System. Generally, the smaller rights are not measured and reported, however, these water users still benefit from having a water commissioner regulating water use on the Beaver River. The water use that is measured and reported are typically the larger water rights and water uses on the system.

A two-step process was used this year to calculate the distribution assessments. First, the total assessment amount was split between the measured water users and the unmeasured water users based on the combined water rights of each group. Secondly, the assessment for the unmeasured water users was split among that group according to water right and priority date of each water user; and the assessment for the measured water users was split among that group according to the amount of 2007 water use reported for each user by the water commissioner.

I hope this explanation will be helpful. If you have further questions, please contact me by phone at (801)538-7380 or by e-mail at LeeSim@utah.gov or Mike Silva by phone at (801)538-7430 or by e-mail at MikeSilva@utah.gov.

Respectfully,

Lee H. Sim, P.E.

Assistant State Engineer for Field Services

